



## Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

15 September 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: September 15, 2005

**Conditions:** A harmful algal bloom has been identified from northern Pinellas to southern Collier County. Today through Saturday patchy moderate to high impacts are possible in Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota Counties; and patchy low to moderate impacts in Lee and Collier Counties. Patchy very low to low impacts are possible in each of these counties Sunday and Monday. A harmful algal bloom has also been identified from Bay County east to Dixie County. Today through Friday patchy low to moderate impacts are possible in Bay, Gulf, Franklin and Wakulla Counties; and patchy moderate to high impacts in Taylor, Dixie and Levy Counties. Patchy very low to low impacts are possible in these Panhandle counties Sunday and Monday. Dead fish have been reported from Barefoot Beach to Marco Island in Collier County over the past few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

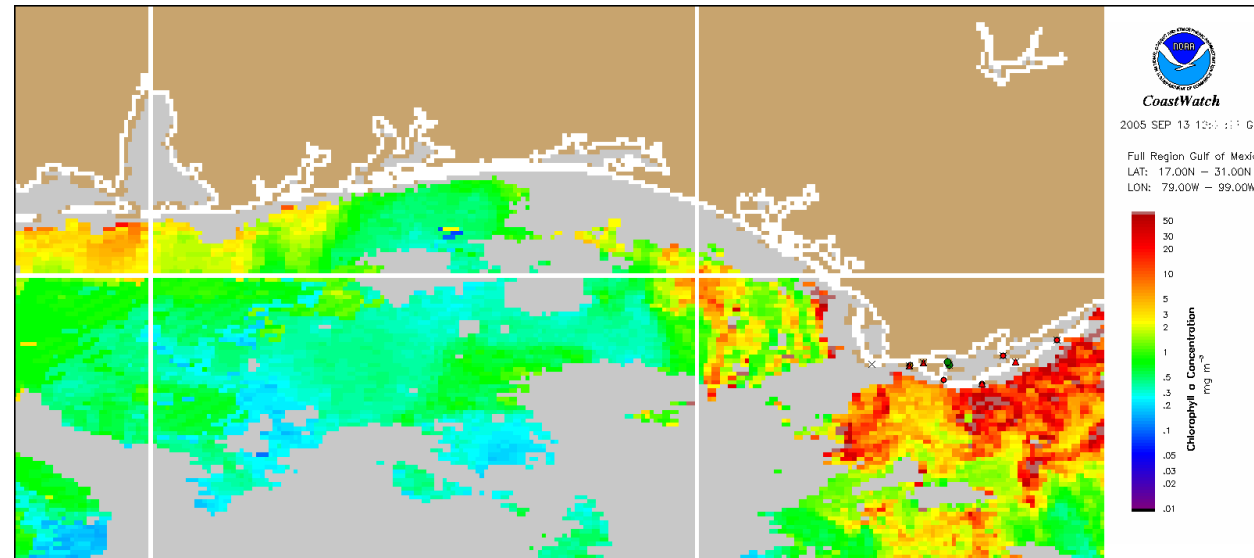
**Analysis:** The bloom persists along the Florida panhandle, extending from Bay to Dixie County. Low concentrations of *K. brevis* were identified in Panama City and St. Andrew Bay, Bay County, and Apalachicola Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties, on September 13. Fish kills have been reported in Wakulla, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, Dixie and Levy Counties. Sampling is recommended throughout the area, both alongshore and offshore, particularly west and southwest of Cape San Blas near 29°37'N 85°29'W, and 29°26'N 85°51'W where chlorophyll levels of 17 µg/L and >40 µg/L, respectively, have been detected via satellite. No recent samples are available for the greater Big Bend region. Chlorophyll levels up to 30 µg/L are visible along the coast from Taylor to Levy County and >40 µg/L offshore south of Wakulla County at 29°39'N 84°16'W. Sampling is recommended. Westerly winds through Friday are likely to intensify beach impacts and

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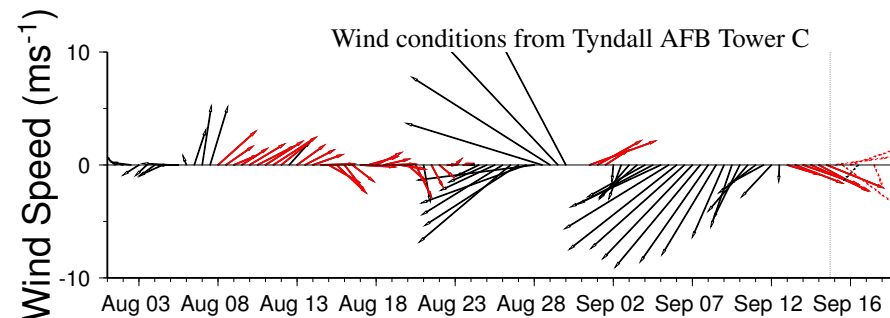
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transport offshore *K. brevis* to shore in Taylor, Dixie, and Levy Counties. The bloom is likely to maintain its location onshore over the weekend, and may intensify.

~Fisher, Bronder

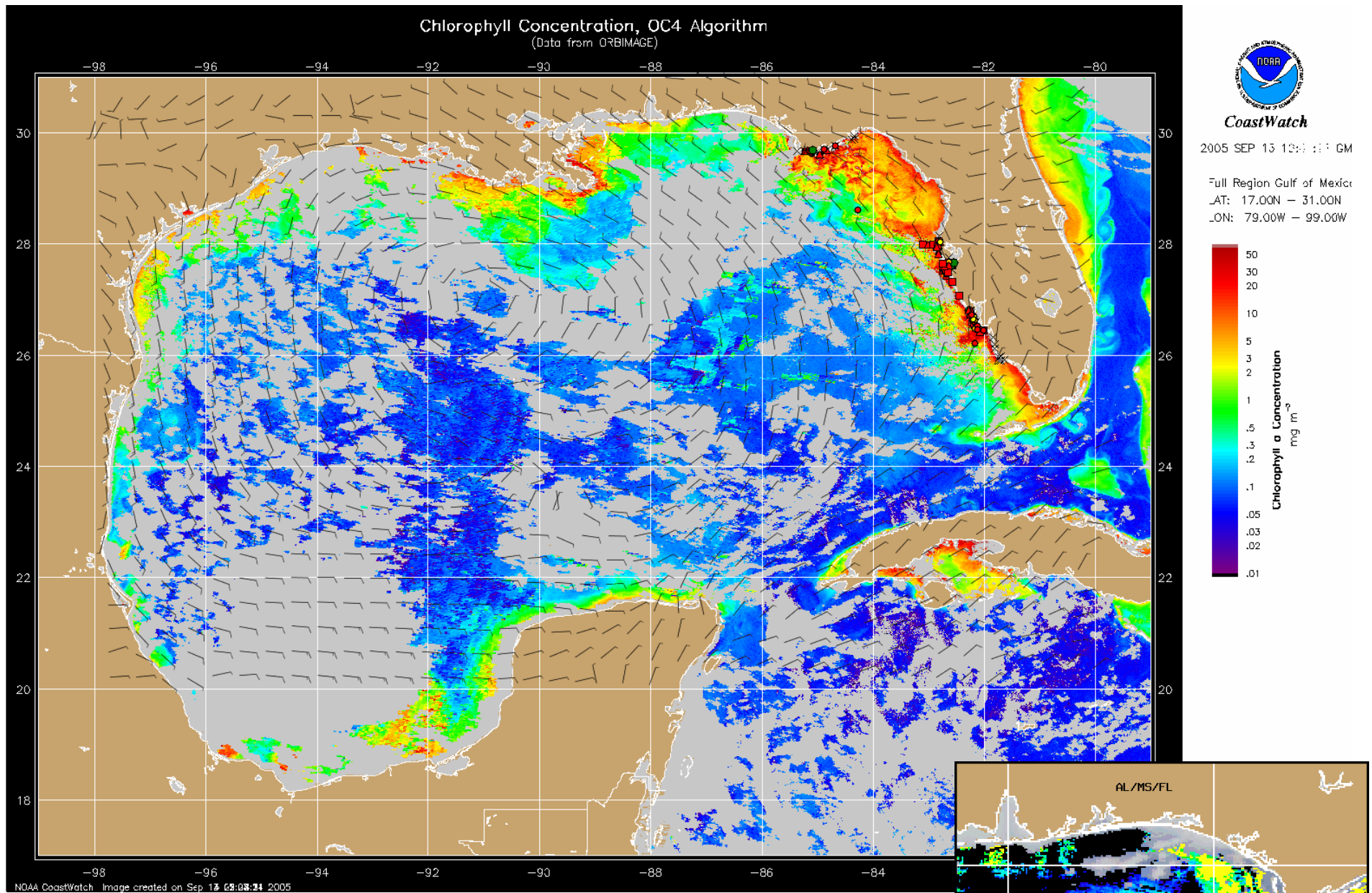


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Florida Panhandle: Westerly winds through Friday at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s) becoming northwesterly Friday night. North winds (5-10kts, 3-5m/s) on Saturday shifting northeasterly (10kts, 5m/s) Sunday. Stronger 10-15 knot (5-8 m/s) easterlies expected Monday.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for September 16, 2005 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)